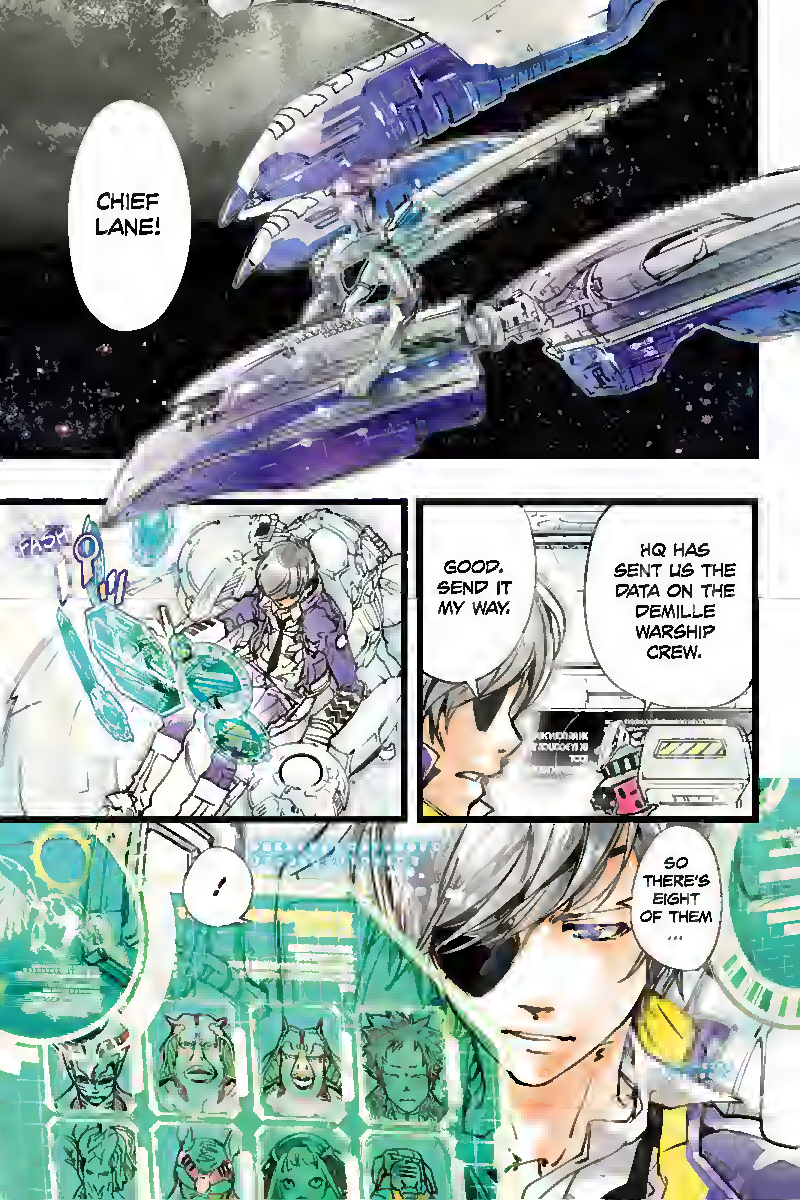
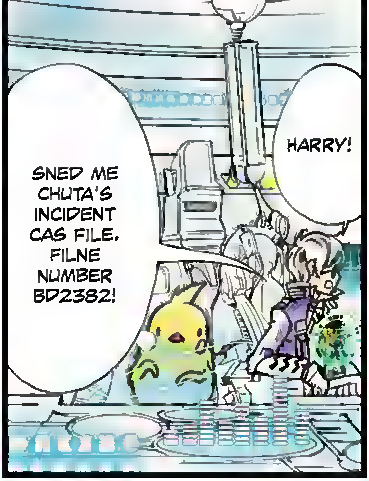
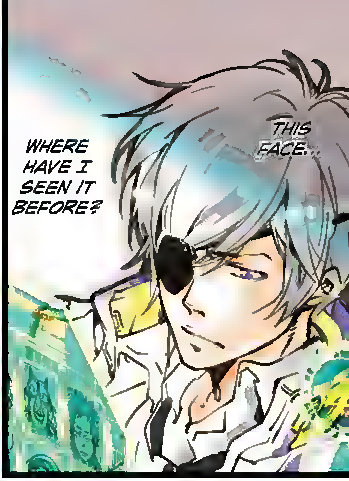
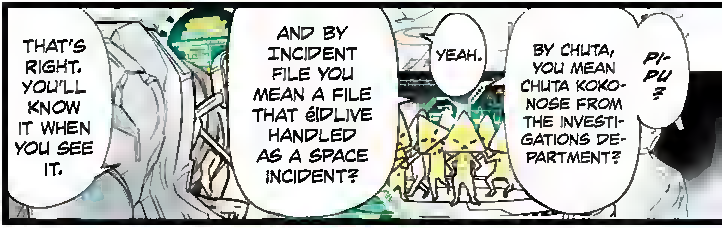
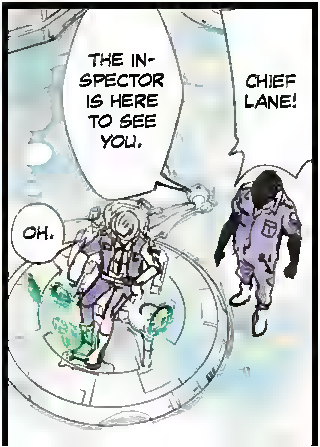
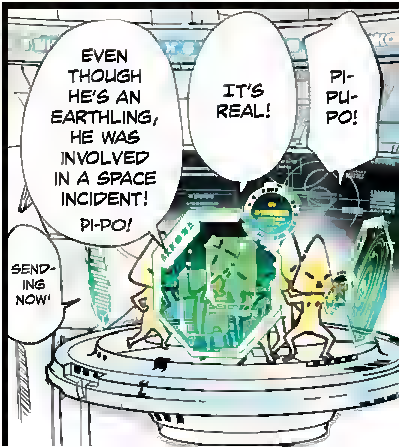

CHIEF LANE!
HQ HAS SENT US THE DATA ON THE DEMILLE WARSHIP CREW.
GOOD. SEND IT MY WAY.
SO THERE'S EIGHT OF THEM ...
!

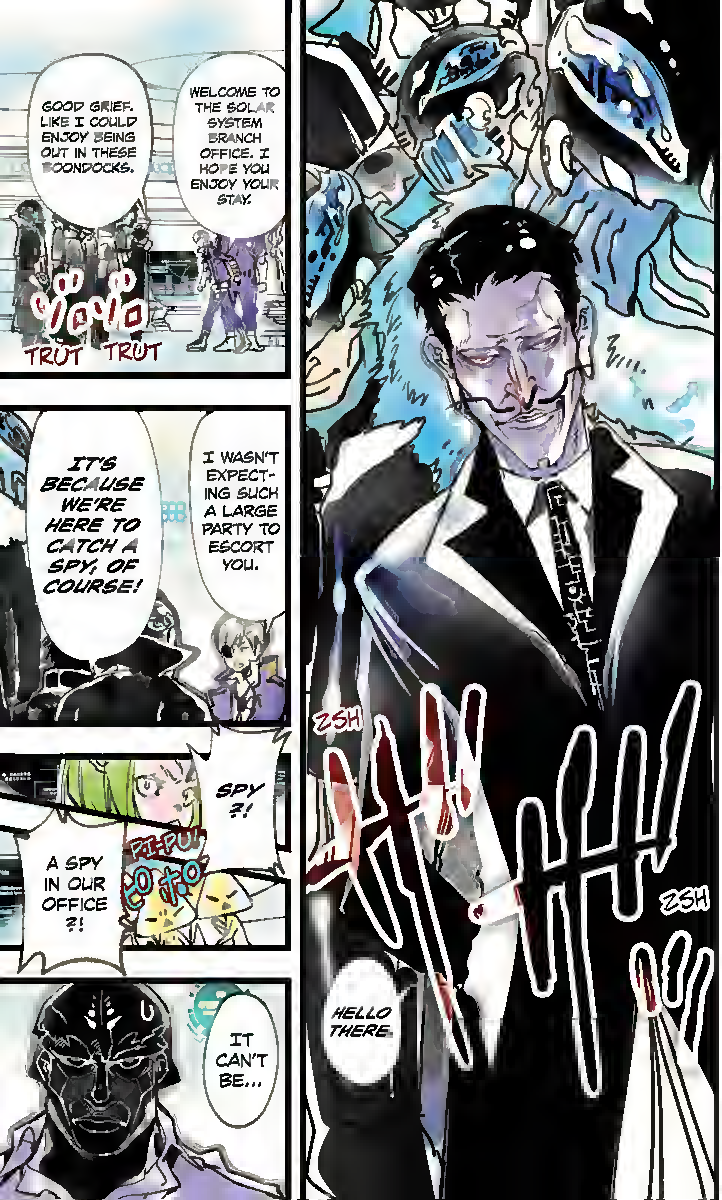

HARRY!
SNED ME CHUTA'S INCIDENT CAS FILE. FILNE NUMBER BD2382!

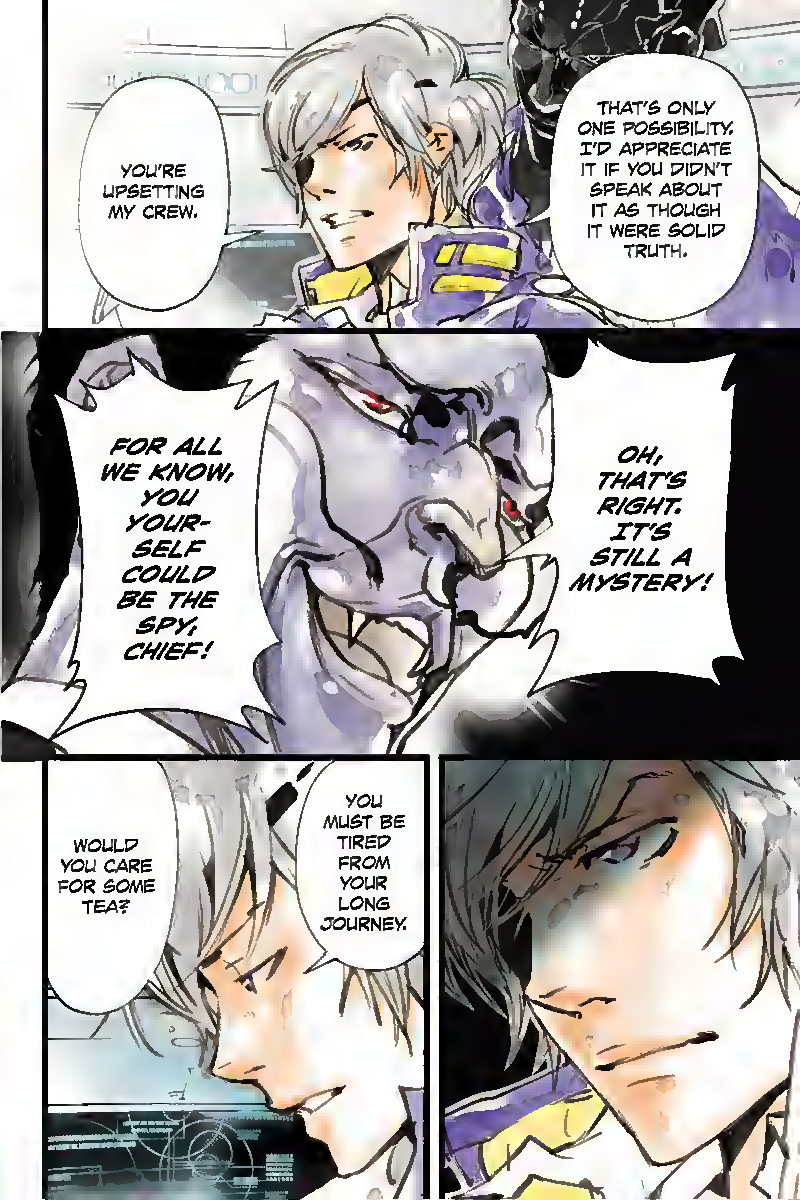

THIS FACE...
WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE?

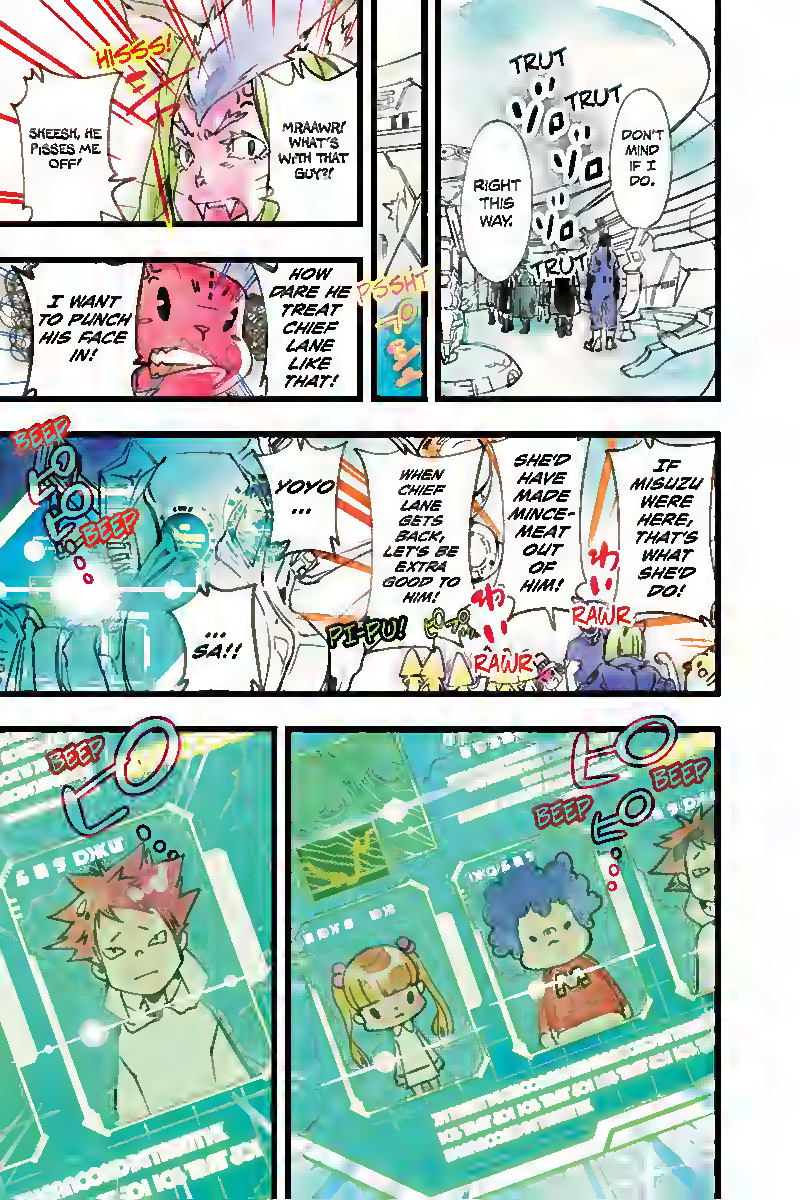

BY CHUTA, YOU MEAN CHUTA KOKONOSE FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT?
PI-PU?
YEAH.
AND BY INCIDENT FILE YOU MEAN A FILE THAT @ID'LIVE HANDLED AS A SPACE INCIDENT?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT.


CHIEF LANE!
THE INSPECTOR IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
OH.

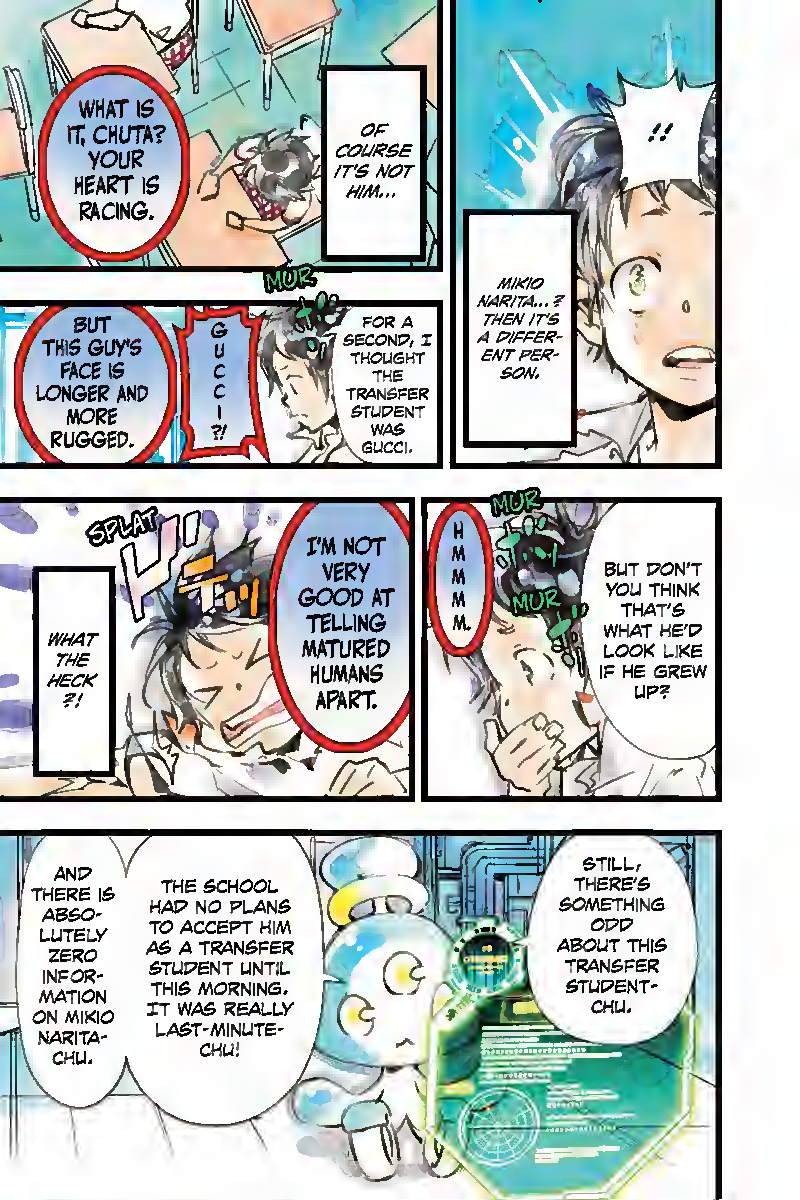

PI-PU-PO!
IT'S REAL!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN EARTHLING, HE WAS INVOLVED IN A SPACE INCIDENT!
PI-PO!
SENDING NOW!

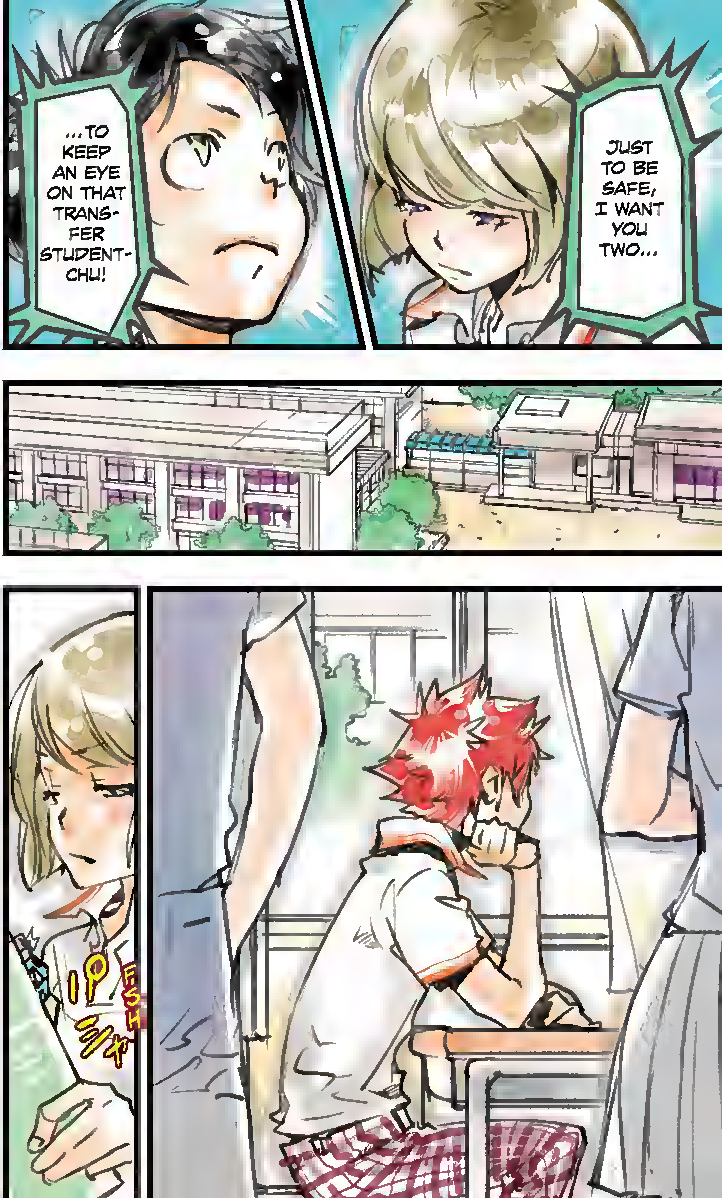

GOOD GRIEF. LIKE I COULD ENJOY BEING OUT IN THESE BOONDOCKS.
WELCOME TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM BRANCH OFFICE. I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY.
TRUT TRUT
I WASN'T EXPECTING SUCH A LARGE PARTY TO ESCORT YOU.
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE HERE TO CATCH A SPY, OF COURSE!
SPY ?!
A SPY IN OUR OFFICE ?!
PAHPU!
IT CAN'T BE...
ZSH
ZSH
HELLO THERE.

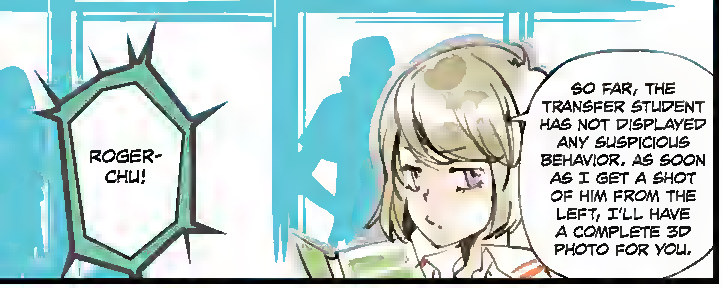

YOU'RE UPSETTING MY CREW.
THAT'S ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T SPEAK ABOUT IT AS THOUGH IT WERE SOLID TRUTH.
FOR ALL WE KNOW, YOU YOUR-SELF COULD BE THE SPY, CHIEF!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S STILL A MYSTERY!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY.

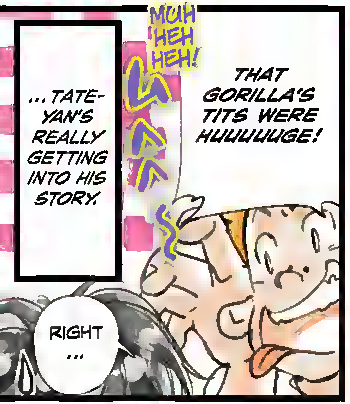

HISSS!
SHEESH, HE PISSES ME OFF!
MRAAWR! WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?!
I WANT TO PUNCH HIS FACE IN!
HOW DARE HE TREAT CHIEF LANE LIKE THAT!
PSSHT
TRUT
TRUT
TRUT
DON'T MIND IF I DO.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
YOYO ...
... SA!!
WHEN CHIEF LANE GETS BACK, LET'S BE EXTRA GOOD TO HIM!
PIPO!
SHE'D HAVE MADE MINCE-MEAT OUT OF HIM!
IF MISUZU WERE HERE, THAT'S WHAT SHE'D DO!
RAWR
RAWR
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

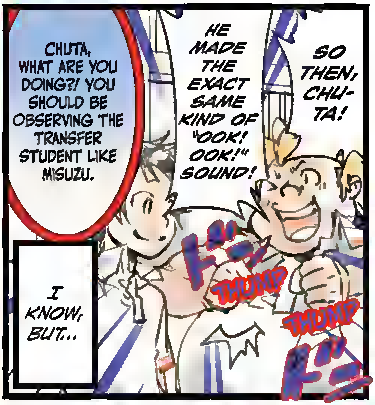
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE..
...GUCCI!
MURMUR
MURMUR
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M MIKIO NARITA.

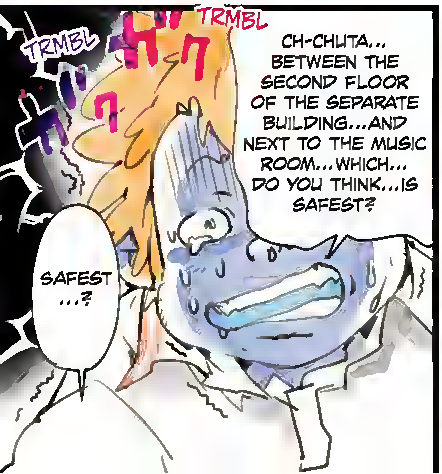

!!
MIKIO NARITA...? THEN IT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON.
OF COURSE IT'S NOT HIM...
WHAT IS IT, CHUTA? YOUR HEART IS RACING.
MUR
FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT THE TRANSFER STUDENT WAS GUCCI.
GUCCI?!
BUT THIS GUY'S FACE IS LONGER AND MORE RUGGED.
HMMM.
MUR
MUR
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'D LOOK LIKE IF HE GREW UP?
SPLAT
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT TELLING MATURED HUMANS APART.
WHAT THE HECK?!
STILL, THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS TRANSFER STUDENT-CHU.
THE SCHOOL HAD NO PLANS TO ACCEPT HIM AS A TRANSFER STUDENT UNTIL THIS MORNING. IT WAS REALLY LAST-MINUTE-CHU!
AND THERE IS ABSOLUTELY ZERO INFORMATION ON MIKIO NARITA-CHU.


...TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT TRANS-FER STUDENT-CHU!
JUST TO BE SAFE, I WANT YOU TWO...
IPPI
ミヤ
NEW


ROGER-CHU!
SO FAR, THE TRANSFER STUDENT HAS NOT DISPLAYED ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR. AS SOON AS I GET A SHOT OF HIM FROM THE LEFT, I'LL HAVE A COMPLETE 3D PHOTO FOR YOU.

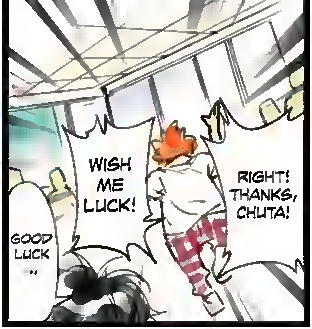

...TATE-YAN'S REALLY GETTING INTO HIS STORY.
MUH HEH HEH!
THAT GORILLA'S TITS WERE HUUUUUGE!
RIGHT...


CHUTA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU SHOULD BE OBSERVING THE TRANSFER STUDENT LIKE MISUZU.
I KNOW, BUT..
HE MADE THE EXACT SAME KIND OF "OOK! OOK!" SOUND!
SO THEN, CHU-TA!
DUMP
DUMP


TRMBL
TRMBL
CH-CHUTA... BETWEEN THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SEPARATE BUILDING...AND NEXT TO THE MUSIC ROOM...WHICH... DO YOU THINK...IS SAFEST?
SAFEST...?

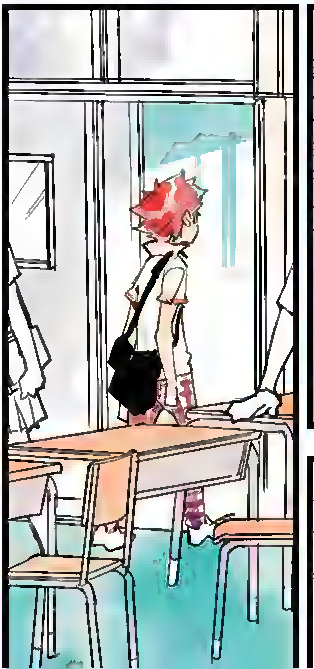
HUH?
?
GUUUH
I CAN'T KEEP IT IN MUCH LONGER..

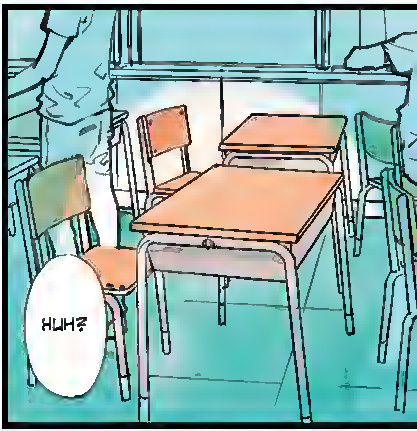
AND THEN!
TOOT


GOOD LUCK..
WISH ME LUCK!
RIGHT! THANKS, CHUTA!

KEEP IT DOWN!
UH...I GUESS THE SEPARATE BUILDING.
WHICH PLACE HAS A BATHROOM WHERE YOU CAN TAKE A DUMP AND NOBODY'S GOING TO BANG ON THE DOOR AND YELL "SOMEONE'S DROPPING A LOAD IN THERE!!"?

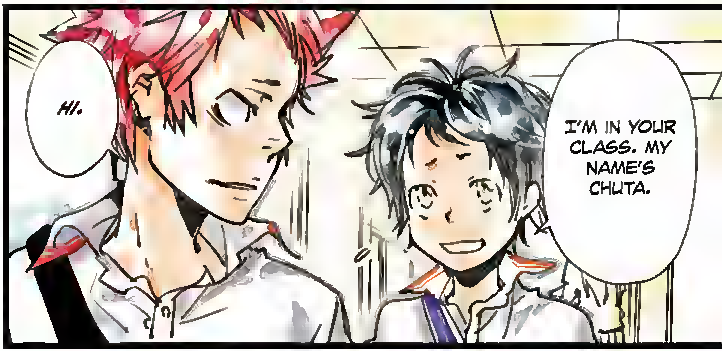
YEAH.
NOW WE CAN FINALLY GET ON THAT TRANSFER STUDENT.

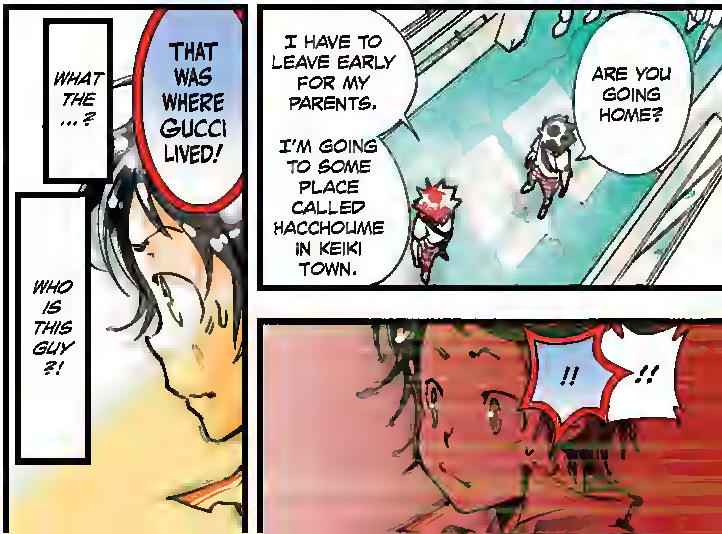


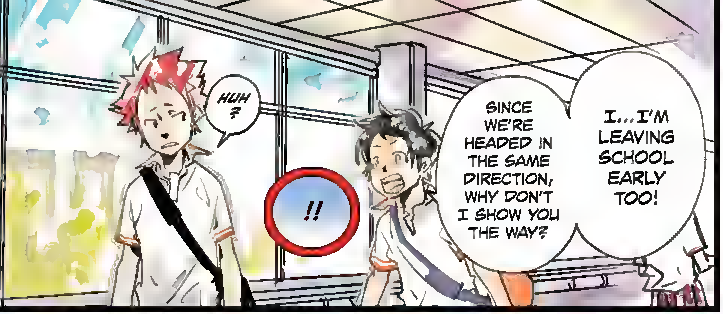

HUH?

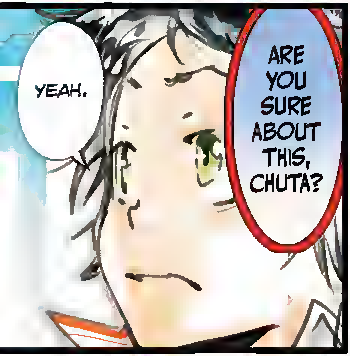
!!
GRIP
GRIP
!
SHF
?
CHUTA ?!
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE SO OBVIOUS ABOUT TAILING HIM?
IT'S NOT OUT OF THE ORDINARY TO CALL OUT TO A CLASS-MATE.
...

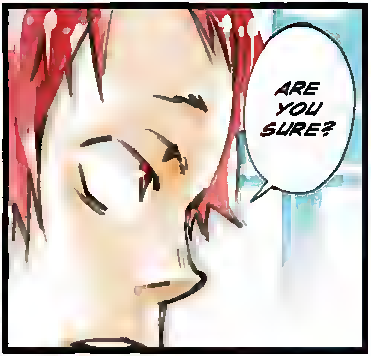
EXCUSE ME...
THAT'S TRUE.


HI.
I'M IN YOUR CLASS. MY NAME'S CHUTA.


ARE YOU GOING HOME?
I HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY FOR MY PARENTS.
I'M GOING TO SOME PLACE CALLED HACCHOUME IN KEIKI TOWN.
!!
!!
THAT WAS WHERE GUCCI LIVED!
WHAT THE ...?
WHO IS THIS GUY?!


HUH ?
!!
SINCE WE'RE HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION, WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU THE WAY?
I...I'M LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY TOO!

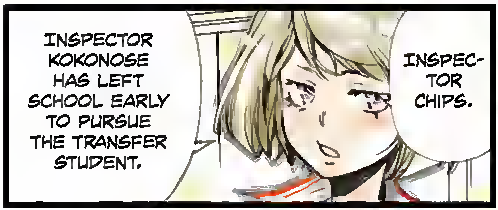

YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, CHUTA?

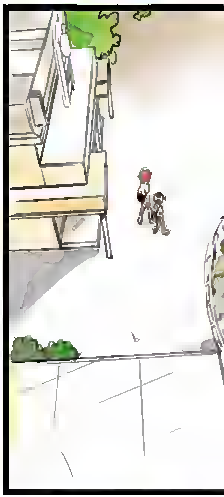

ARE YOU SURE?

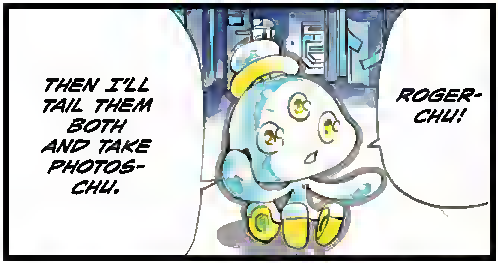
THAT'S FINE... NO PROBLEM AT ALL!

I WANT TO KNOW!

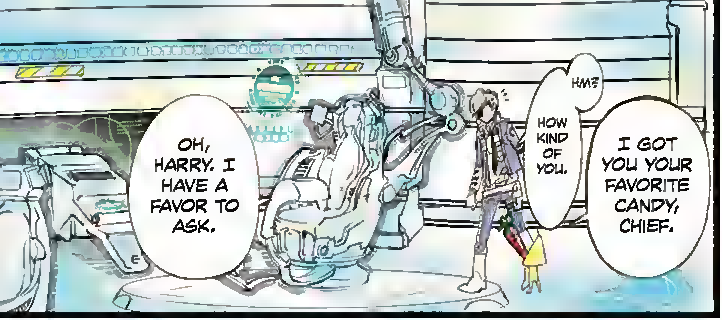
SORRY, BUT BEFORE I GO HOME, I HAVE A PLACE I GOTTA GO FIRST.
!

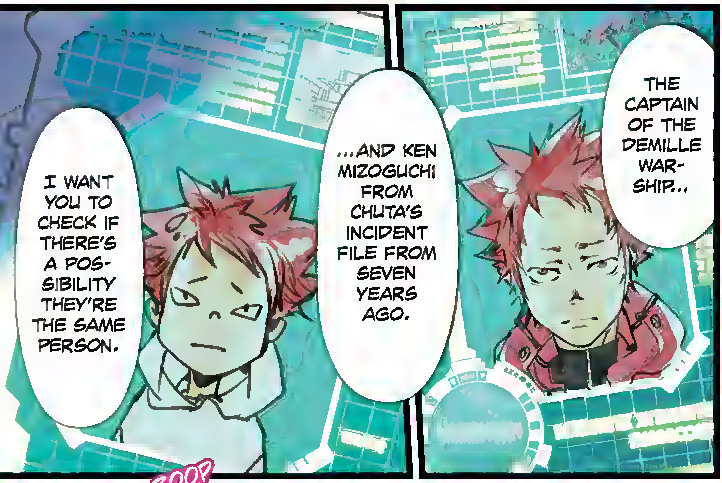

INSPECTOR KOKONOSE HAS LEFT SCHOOL EARLY TO PURSUE THE TRANSFER STUDENT.
INSPECTOR CHIPS.

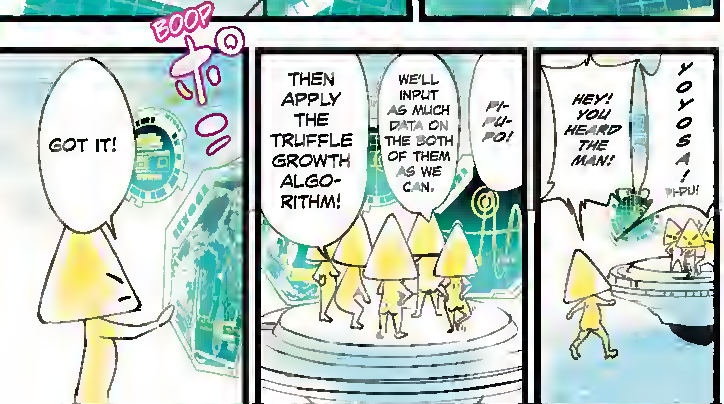


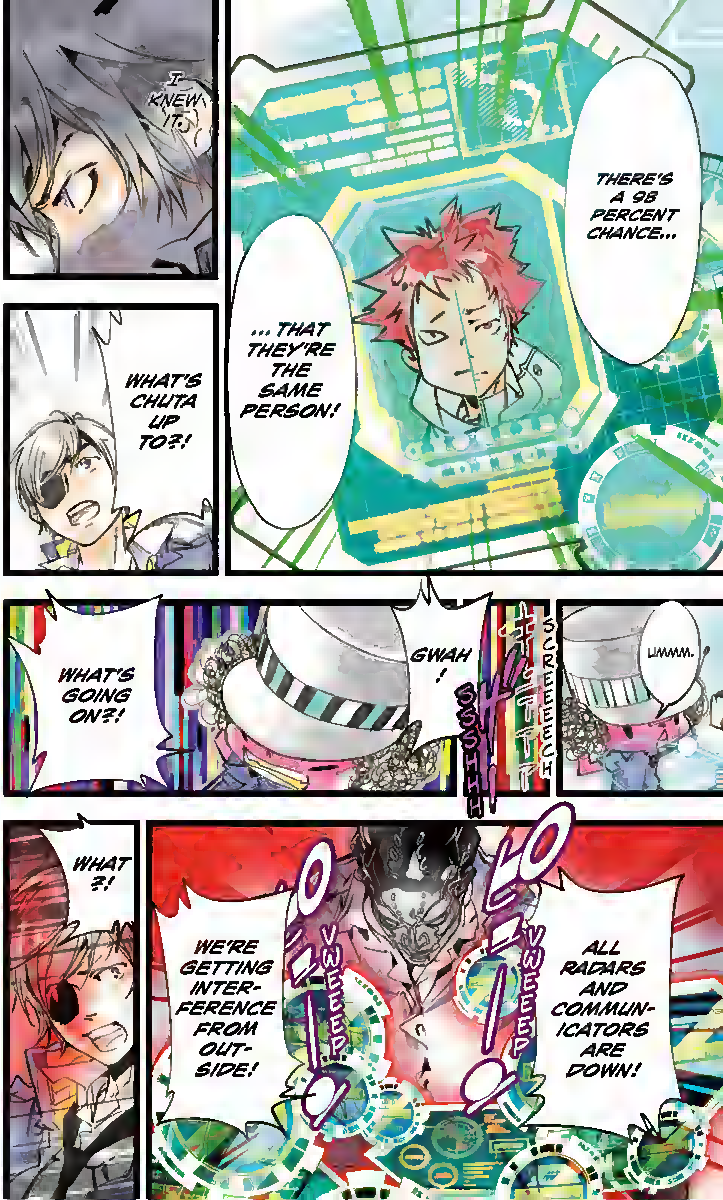

THEN I'LL TAIL THEM BOTH AND TAKE PHOTOS-CHU.
ROGER-CHU!

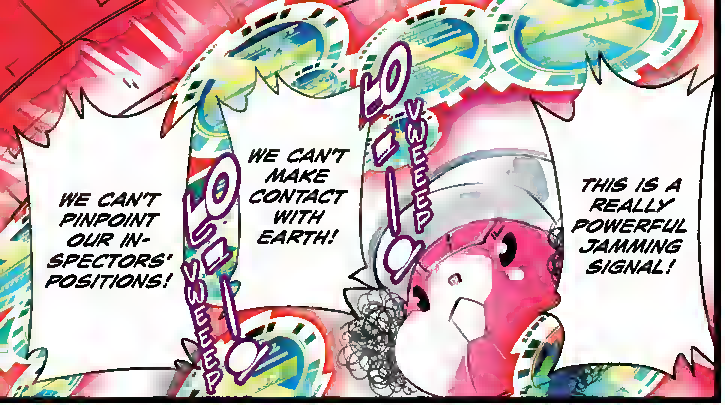
GOOD WORK TODAY, CHIEF.

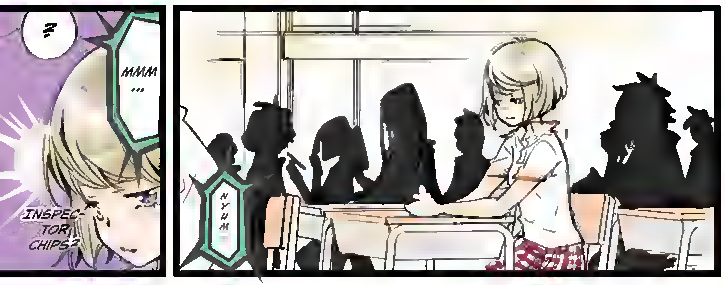

OH, HARRY. I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
HOW KIND OF YOU.
HM?
I GOT YOU YOUR FAVORITE CANDY, CHIEF.

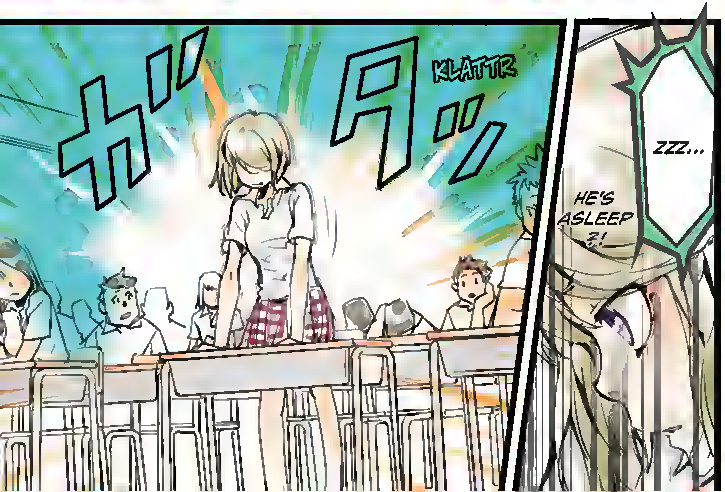

I WANT YOU TO CHECK IF THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON.
...AND KEN MIZOGUCHI FROM CHUTA'S INCIDENT FILE FROM SEVEN YEARS AGO.
THE CAPTAIN OF THE DEMILLE WARSHIP...

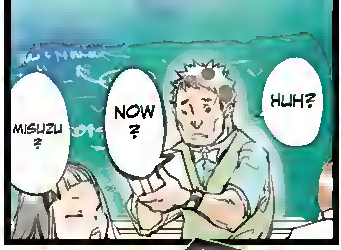

BOOP
GOT IT!
THEN APPLY THE TRUFFLE GROWTH ALGORITHM!
WE'LL INPUT AS MUCH DATA ON THE BOTH OF THEM AS WE CAN.
PI-PU-PO!
HEY! YOU HEARD THE MAN!
YOYOSA!
PI-PU!

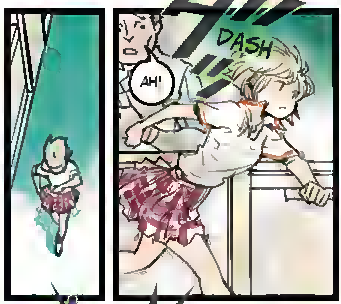

I KNEW IT!
THERE'S A 98 PERCENT CHANCE...
... THAT THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON!
WHAT'S CHUTA UP TO?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
GWAH!
SSSHH
SCREECH
UMMM.
WHAT?!
WE'RE GETTING INTER-FERENCE FROM OUT-SIDE!
WEEP
WEEP
ALL RADARS AND COMMUN-ICATORS ARE DOWN!


THIS IS A REALLY POWERFUL JAMMING SIGNAL!
WE CAN'T MAKE CONTACT WITH EARTH!
WE CAN'T PINPOINT OUR IN-SPECTORS' POSITIONS!
PEEEEEP
PEEEEEP


?
MMM...
INSPEC-TOR, CHIPS?
NYAM


KLAFTR
ZZZ...
HE'S ASLEEP?!


MISUZU?
NOW?
HUH?

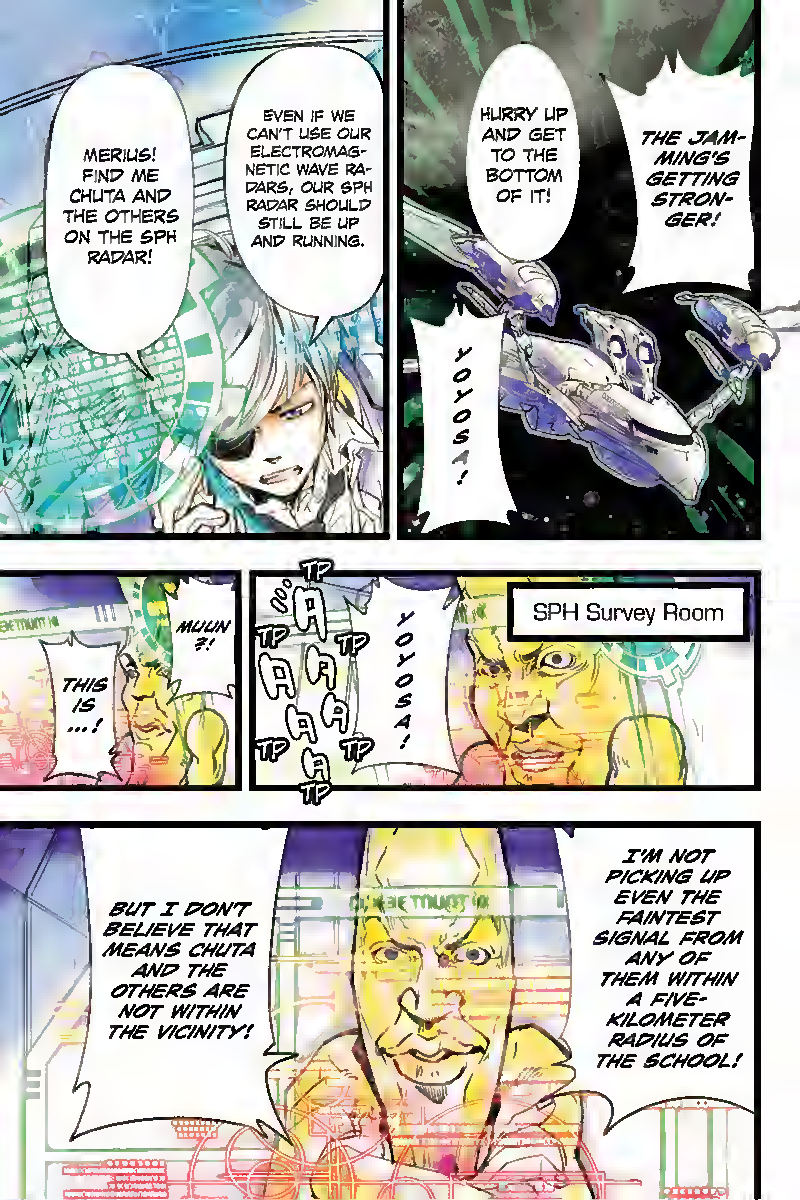

DASH
AH!

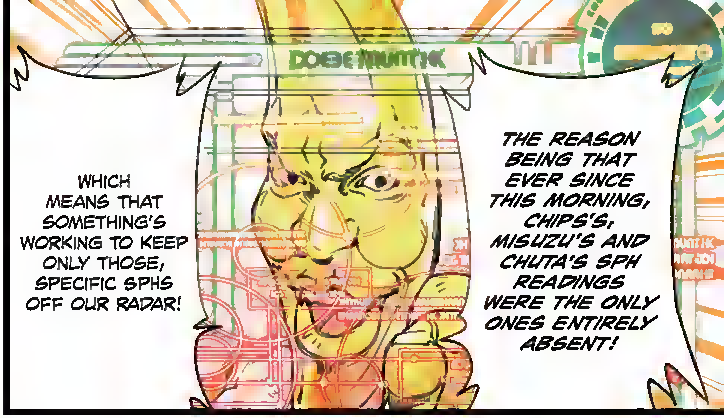
I LEFT MY RACKET IN MY COAT THIS MORNING.
I NEED TO GO FETCH IT.

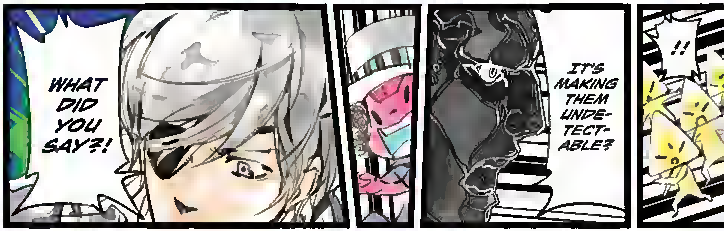
SSSHHH
~~!!!
ZZZ ...
FSSHH

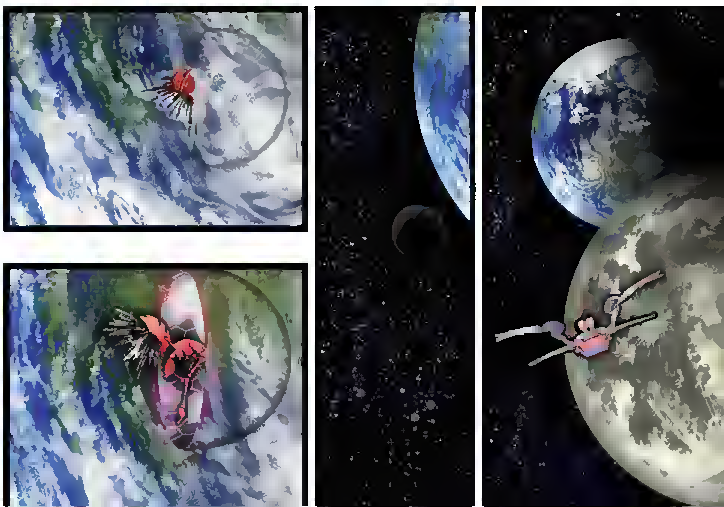
ZZZ ...
SSSHHH
INSPECTOR CHIPS! PLEASE RESPOND!
INSPECTOR KOKONOSE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

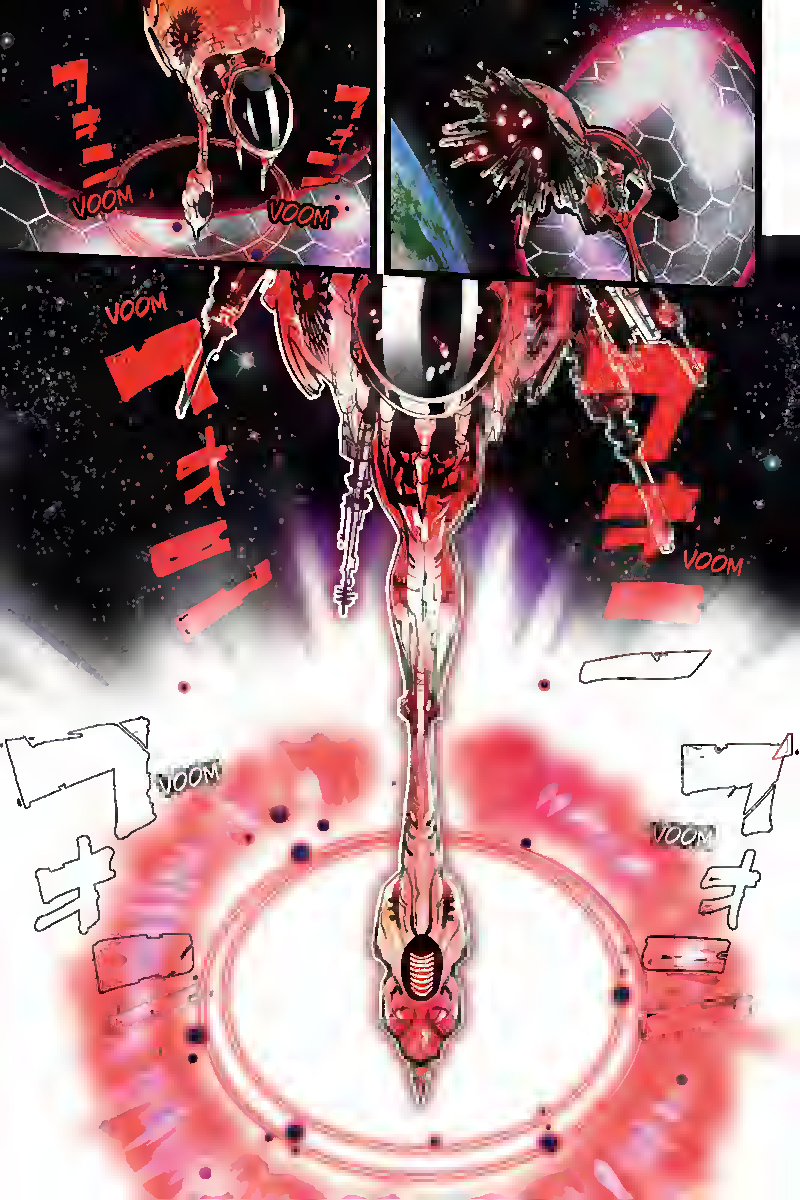
PLUK
AH!


MERIUS! FIND ME CHUTA AND THE OTHERS ON THE SPH RADAR!
EVEN IF WE CAN'T USE OUR ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE RADARS, OUR SPH RADAR SHOULD STILL BE UP AND RUNNING.
YOYOSA!
HURRY UP AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT!
THE JAMMING'S GETTING STRONGER!
MUUN?!
THIS IS ...!
TP TP TP TP TP TP TP
YOYOSA!
SPH Survey Room
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MEANS CHUTA AND THE OTHERS ARE NOT WITHIN THE VICINITY!
I'M NOT PICKING UP EVEN THE FAINTEST SIGNAL FROM ANY OF THEM WITHIN A FIVE-KILOMETER RADIUS OF THE SCHOOL!


WHICH MEANS THAT SOMETHING'S WORKING TO KEEP ONLY THOSE, SPECIFIC SPHS OFF OUR RADAR!
THE REASON BEING THAT EVER SINCE THIS MORNING, CHIPS'S, MISUZU'S AND CHUTA'S SPH READINGS WERE THE ONLY ONES ENTIRELY ABSENT!


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
IT'S MAKING THEM UNDE-TECT-ABLE?
!!

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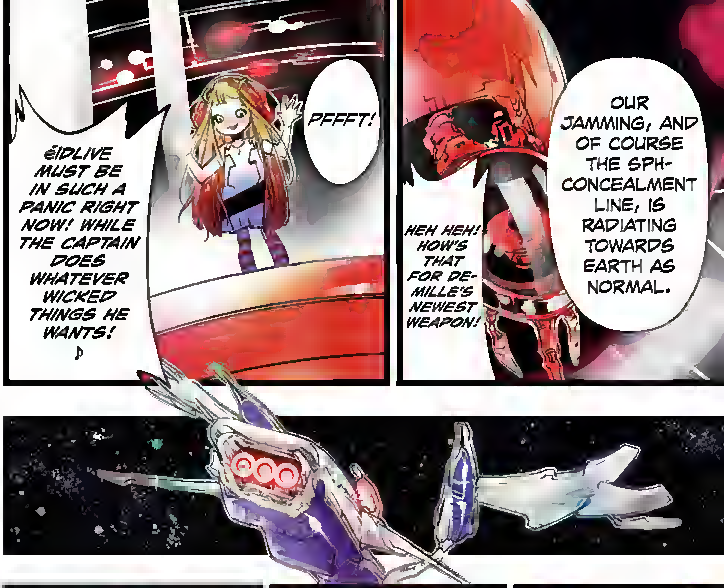
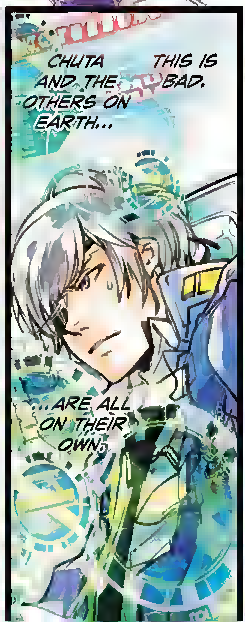
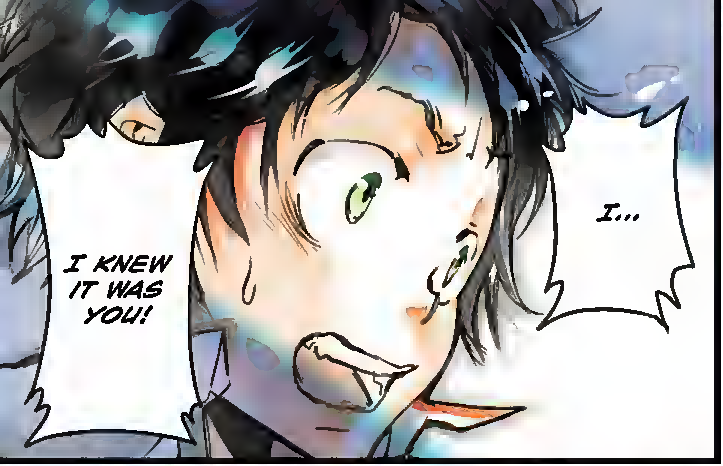

EIDLIVE MUST BE IN SUCH A PANIC RIGHT NOW! WHILE THE CAPTAIN DOES WHATEVER WICKED THINGS HE WANTS! ♪
PFFFT!
HEH HEH! HOW'S THAT FOR DE-MILLE'S NEWEST WEAPON!
OUR JAMMING, AND OF COURSE THE SPH-CONCEALMENT LINE, IS RADIATING TOWARDS EARTH AS NORMAL.

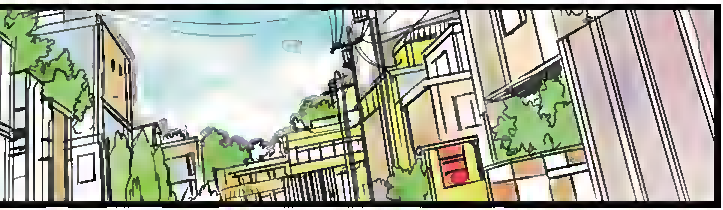

CHUTA AND THE OTHERS ON EARTH...
THIS IS BAD.
...ARE ALL ON THEIR OWN.

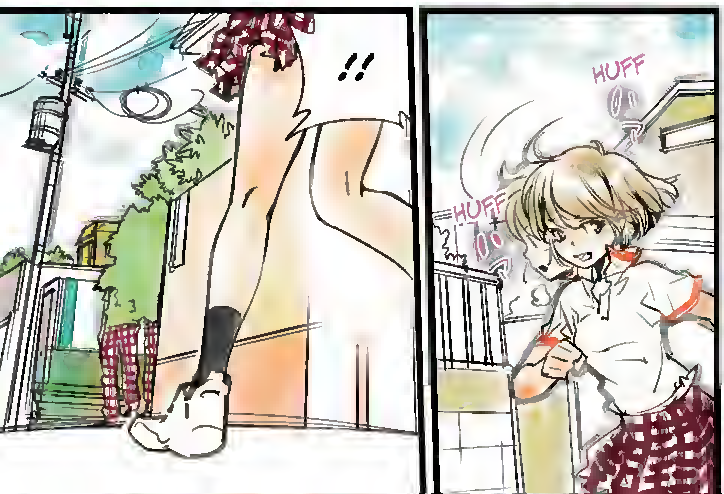
THE REASON WHY WE DIDN'T PICK UP ON ANY SLEEP SPH'S BACK WHEN OUR CREW COLLAPSED...
...MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF WHATEVER THIS IS.
THE JAMMING'S SO BAD...
...I CAN'T EVEN GET IN TOUCH WITH CHIPS!

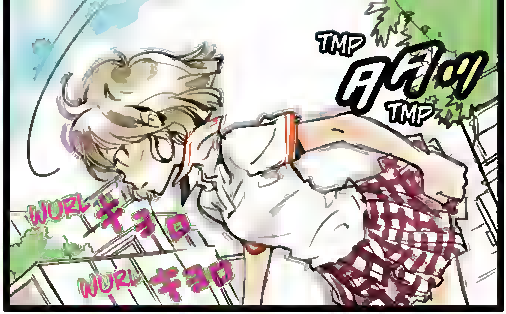
WOW, THIS IS A SURPRISE!
W...
I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO HAVE BUSINESS HERE AT SENGEN SHRINE.
SO...WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS BRINGS ME BACK.

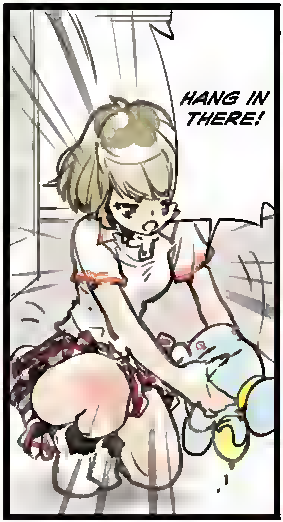
WE USED TO PLAY HERE ALL THE TIME.
ME, MICHIYO AND MATSUTARO ...
!!
!!
EVEN THOUGH THEY ALL FELL OFF A CLIFF AND DIED..
...WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE FREE TO LIVE?
CHUTA.

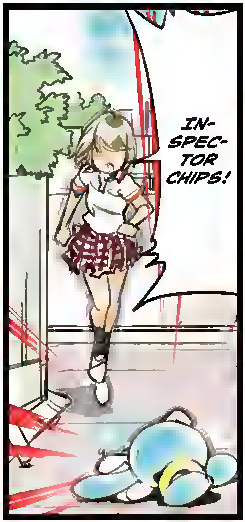

I...
I KNEW IT WAS YOU!

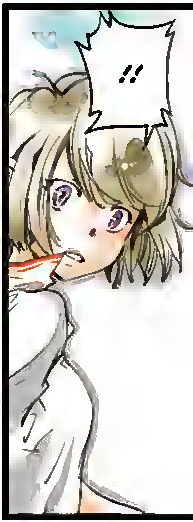



!!
HUFF
HUFF


TMP
TMP
WURL
WURL
SKIP


HANG IN THERE!


IN-SPEC-TOR CHIPS!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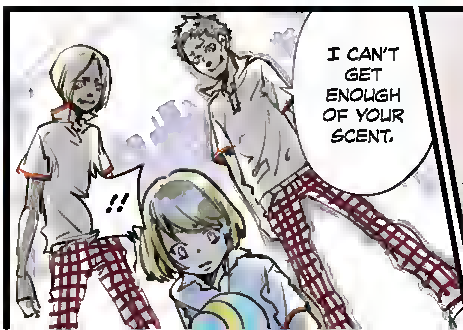
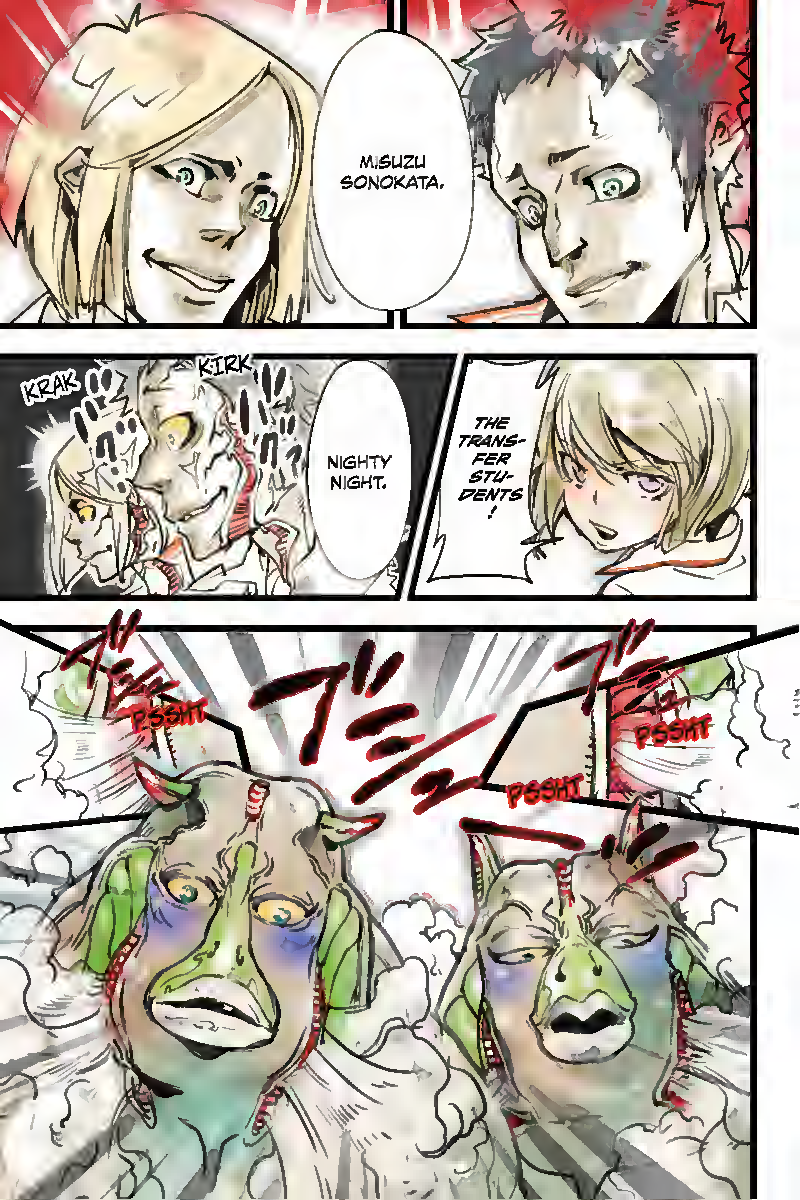
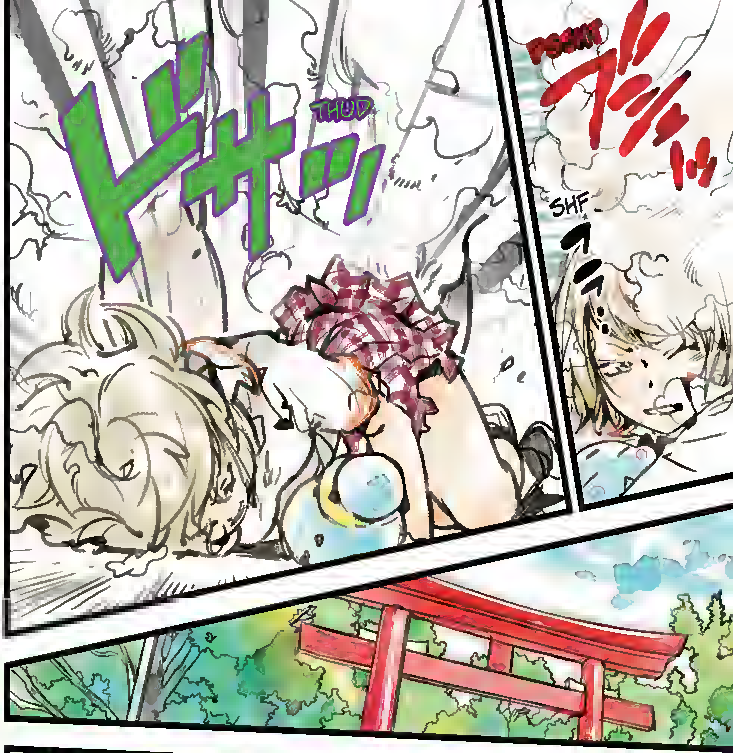
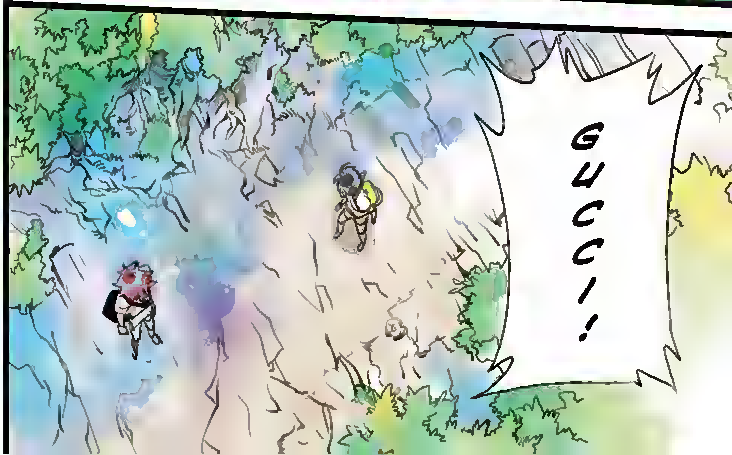

I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOUR SCENT.
!!

LOOM
!


M.SUZU SONOKATA.
KRAK
KIRK
NIGHTY NIGHT.
THE TRANS-FER STU-DENTS!
PSSHT
PSSHT
PSSHT

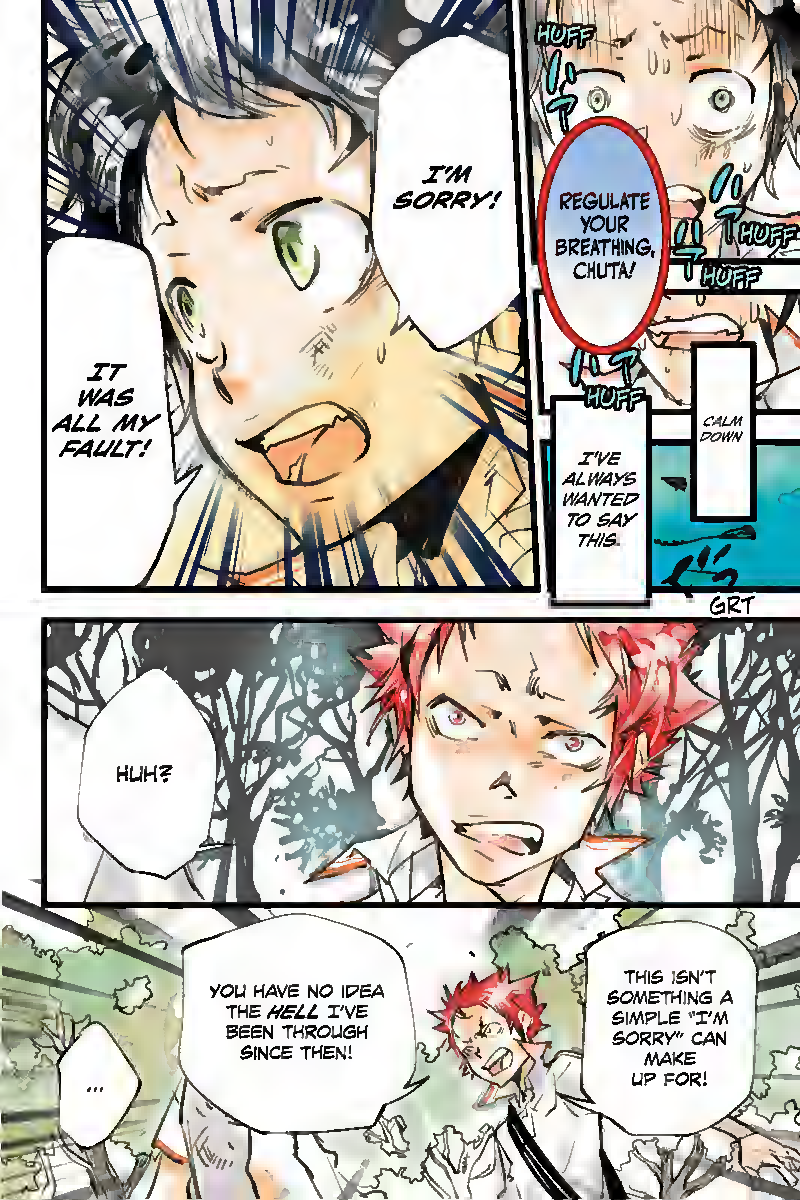

ドサッ
THUD
POINT
SHF

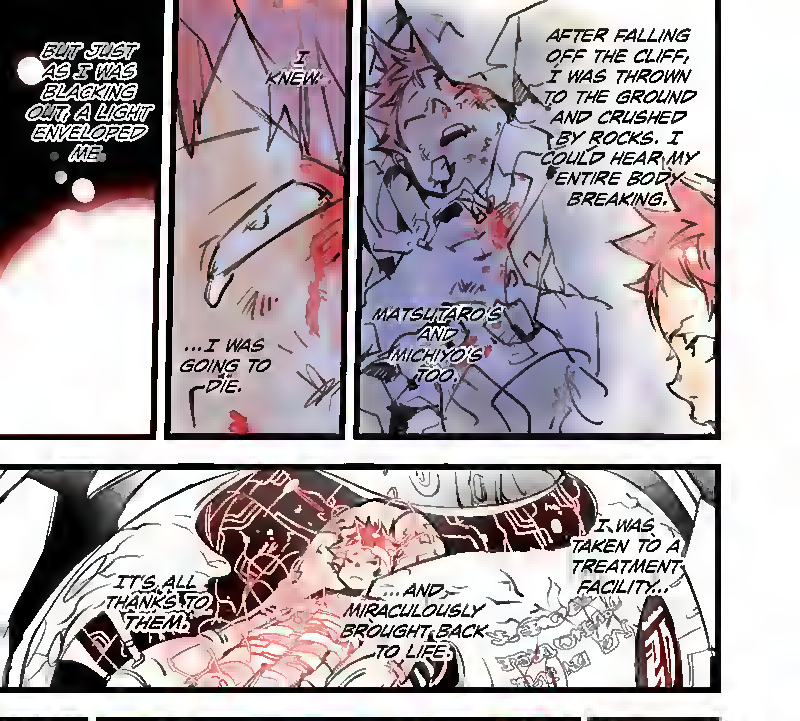

GUCCI!

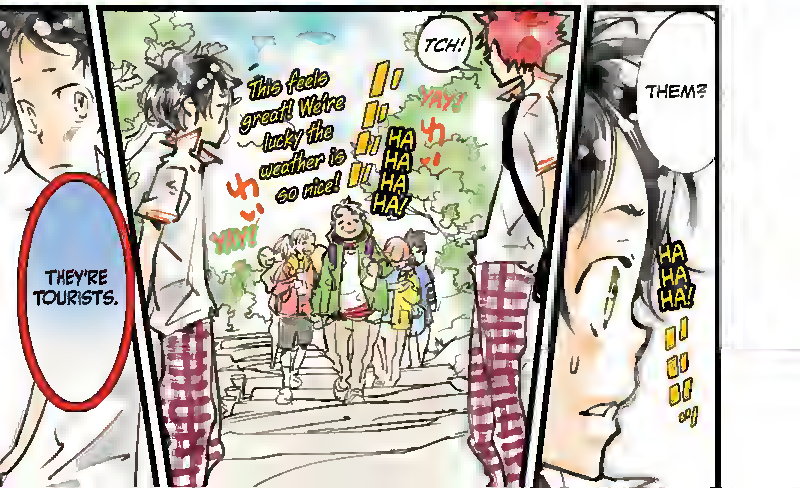
GUCCI.
YOU'RE ALIVE.
Y...
BASH
!!
!!

KRSSH
GWAH!
ARE YOU OKAY, CHUTA?!
AH...
OW...
GUCCI?
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ...

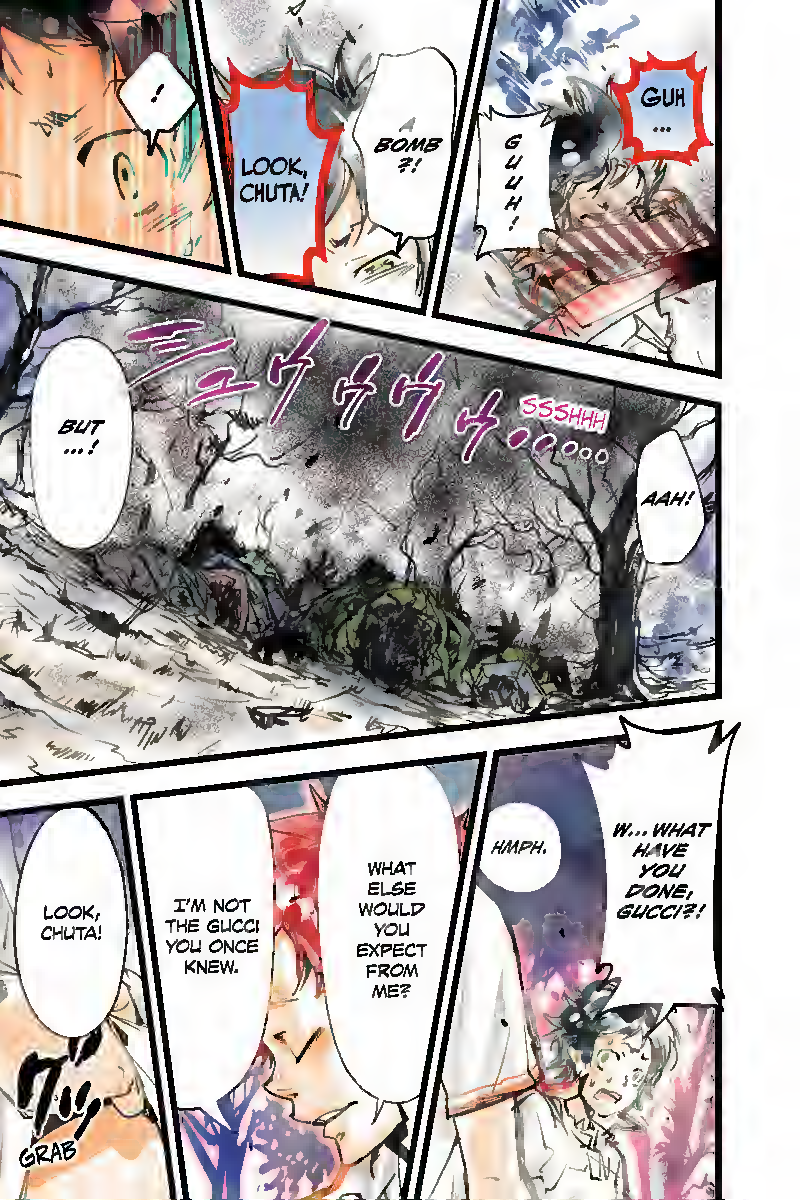
...HOW YOU PUSHED US OFF THAT CLIFF.
!!
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T REALIZE?
...
SURE, WE WERE ALREADY IN A PRETTY PRECARIOUS SPOT, BUT...
BUT THEN SOME-BODY...
...IF WE'D JUST WAITED ON THAT CLIFF, HELP WOULD'VE COME.
...PUR-POSEFULLY CAUSED THE UN-STABLE ROCKS TO COLLAPSE!

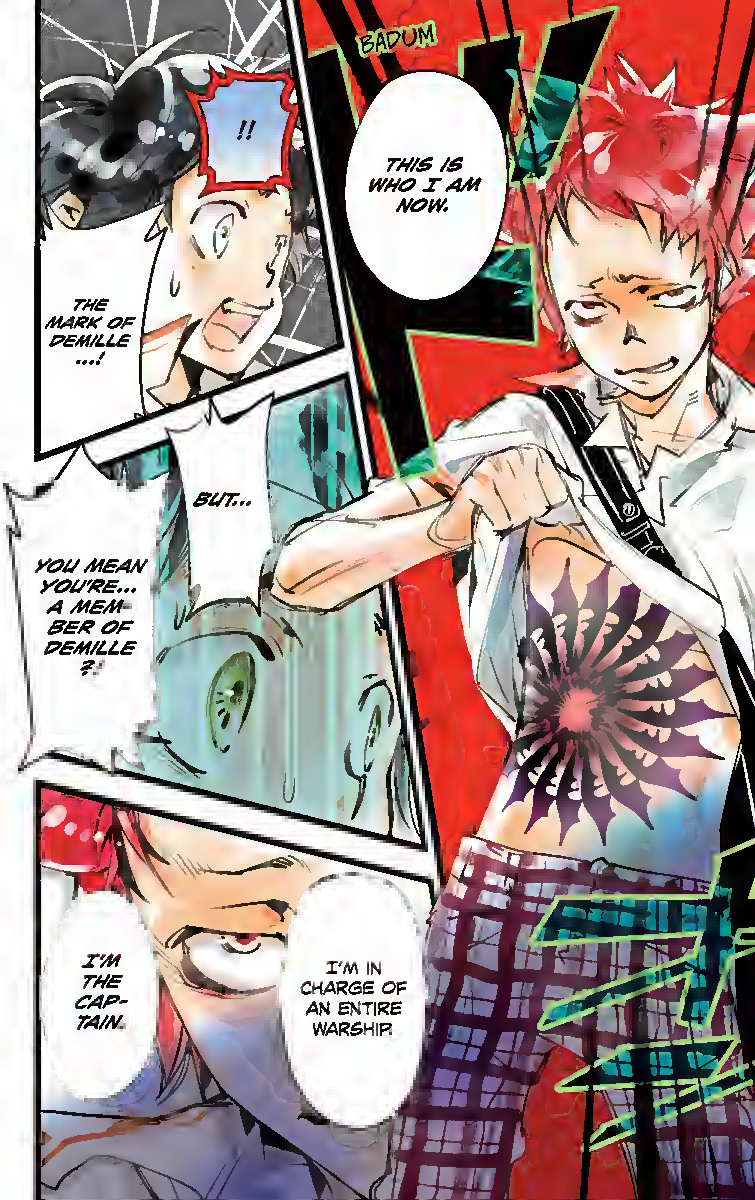

I'M SORRY!
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
HUFF
REGULATE YOUR BREATHING, CHUTA!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THIS.
CALM DOWN
GRT
HUH?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE HELL I'VE BEEN THROUGH SINCE THEN!
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING A SIMPLE "I'M SORRY" CAN MAKE UP FOR!
...

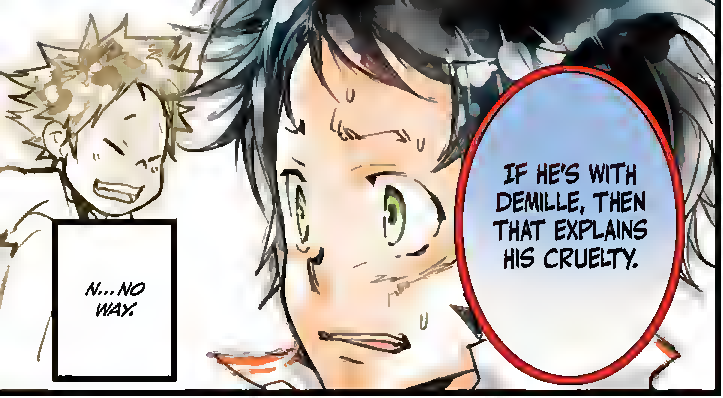

BUT JUST AS I WAS BLACKING OUT, A LIGHT ENVELOPED ME.
I KNEW...
...I WAS GOING TO DIE.
AFTER FALLING OFF THE CLIFF, I WAS THROWN TO THE GROUND AND CRUSHED BY ROCKS. I COULD HEAR MY ENTIRE BODY BREAKING.
MATSUTARO'S AND MICHIYO'S TOO.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO THEM.
...AND MIRACULOUSLY BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
I WAS TAKEN TO A TREATMENT FACILITY...

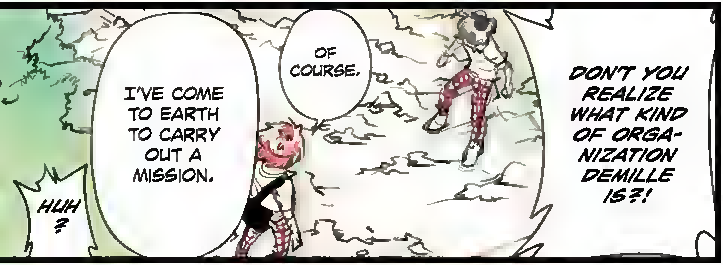

THEY'RE TOURISTS.
This feels great! We're lucky the weather is so nice!
HA HA HA HA!
YAY!
YAY!
YAY!
TCH!
THEM?
HA HA HA!

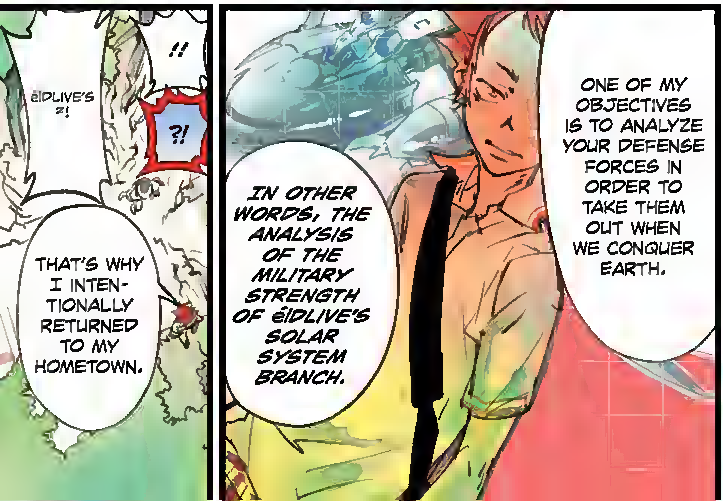
BEEP BEEP
VWOOM
DON'T INTERRUPT OUR CONVERSATION.
HUH?
KREEEEE
!!
BOOM
UWAH!
!!


GUH ...
GUUH!
BOMB ?!
LOOK, CHUTA!
!
AAH!
SSSHHH...
BUT ...!
W... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, GUCCI?!
HMPH.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT FROM ME?
I'M NOT THE GUCCI YOU ONCE KNEW.
LOOK, CHUTA!
GRAB


BADUM
THIS IS WHO I AM NOW.
!!
THE MARK OF DEMILLE ...!
BUT...
YOU MEAN YOU'RE... A MEMBER OF DEMILLE?!
I'M IN CHARGE OF AN ENTIRE WARSHIP.
I'M THE CAPTAIN.


IF HE'S WITH DEMILLE, THEN THAT EXPLAINS HIS CRUELTY.
N... NO WAY.


DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION DEMILLE IS?!
OF COURSE.
I'VE COME TO EARTH TO CARRY OUT A MISSION.
HUH?


ONE OF MY OBJECTIVES IS TO ANALYZE YOUR DEFENSE FORCES IN ORDER TO TAKE THEM OUT WHEN WE CONQUER EARTH.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE ANALYSIS OF THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF ëIDLIVE'S SOLAR SYSTEM BRANCH.
!!
?!
ëIDLIVE'S ?!
THAT'S WHY I INTENTIONALLY RETURNED TO MY HOMETOWN.

SO WE SENT IN TWO MEMBERS TO POSE AS TRANSFER STUDENTS AND REVEAL THOSE PERSONNEL USING A SLEEPING SPH.
WE LEARNED FROM THE SPY THAT ÉIDLIVE PERSONNEL WERE LURKING AROUND SHIROBORI MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY SPECIFICS.
IT PROBABLY DIDN'T LEAVE A TRACE ON YOUR SPH RADAR.
I KNEW IT! SO THAT SPH... WAS THE WORK OF DEMILLE!
TO THINK THAT YOU'RE AN ÉIDLIVE OFFICER.
BUT I'M SHOCKED, CHUTA.

SECOND OBJECTIVE?
...OF MY SECOND OBJECTIVE.
AND YOU'RE EVEN IN POSSESSION...
WHAT?!
!!
YOU'VE COME TO STEAL DREW?!
POP
I'VE COME TO STEAL...
...YOUR MONITALIEN.